



BIOL3661

PACE: Medical Sciences Capstone

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

School of Natural Sciences

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

PACE activity query and assessments 1 and 3

Michelle Power

michelle.power@mq.edu.au

14ER Room 206

Employability modules (Weeks 2-7) and assessment 2

Emily Don

emily.don@mq.edu.au

14ER 272

Weeks 3-5 (Tues 1pm-5pm, Weds 11am-3pm)

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to BMedScs and 120cp at 1000 level or above including BIOL1620

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

In the Bachelor of Medical Sciences Capstone and PACE unit, you will apply their knowledge and their experiential learnings over the course of the degree to delve into local and global health issues of current medical and health sciences significance. Interactive sessions with experts at the forefront of research topics currently dominating medical sciences will facilitate you to engage deeply with research seeking solutions to health issues through medical science innovations. In the PACE component you have an option to undertake an individual placement or to complete an on-campus group project solving problems for an industry partner. This unit involves active reflection on prior learning and translation to employability and workplace skills, and building linkages with professional communities and industries. Visit [Employability Connect](#) for important information and resources relating to this unit.

Learning in this unit enhances student understanding of global challenges identified by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ([UNSDGs](#)) Good Health and Well Being; Quality Education; Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Reflect and articulate key knowledge and skills gained throughout the Bachelor of Medical Sciences, and apply learnings to devise strategies for transitioning from university to the workforce

ULO2: Consolidate information from seminars, discussions and literature on current topics in medical science and report on your evaluation

ULO3: Analyse and interpret data on a global health issue

ULO4: Appraise strategies for working effectively both as an individual and as part of a team, with knowledge of ethical principles and professional conduct applicable for your career aspirations

ULO5: Effectively communicate key information, innovations and issues in the medical sciences in written and verbal form to a variety of stakeholders / audiences

General Assessment Information

General Assessment Information

Unit completion

To pass this unit students need to:

- Achieve an overall minimum grade of 50% attained through the combined marks of three assessments
- Note that the work undertaken in online employability modules and the PACE activity forms the basis of the unit's assessments. Therefore, students will only do well in assessments if they complete online tasks weekly and undertake a PACE activity.

Assessment Submission

- Assessments must be submitted via iLearn by 11:55 pm on their due date.
- A 1-hour grace period will be provided to students who experience a technical concern.
- Universal design applies to all assessments and there are no time-sensitive assessments.
- All assessments are set at the start of the unit enabling ample time for completion.

Late Assessment Submission

- Applies to assessment 1 (Future Health), Assessment 2 (Work ready final submission) and Assessment 3 (Partnering with Industry)
- Unless a [Special Consideration](#) request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark of the task) will be applied for each day a written report or presentation assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. The submission time for all uploaded assessments is 11:55 pm. A 1-hour grace period will be provided to students who experience technical concerns. For any late submission of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/ presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, please apply for Special Consideration. For example, if the assignment is worth 8 marks (of the entire unit) and your submission is late by 19 hours (or 23 hours 59 minutes 59 seconds), 0.4 marks (5% of 8 marks) will be deducted. If your submission is late by 24 hours (or 47 hours 59 minutes 59 seconds), 0.8 marks (10% of 8 marks) will be deducted, and so on.
- [Special Consideration](#) has been submitted and approved.

Special Consideration

Applies to assessment 1 (Future Health), Assessment 2 (Work ready final submission) and Assessment 3 (Partnering with Industry)

The [Special Consideration Policy](#) aims to support students who have been impacted by short-term circumstances or events that are serious, unavoidable and significantly disruptive, and which may affect their performance in assessment. If you experience circumstances or events that affect your ability to complete the assessments in this unit on time, please inform the convenor and submit a Special Consideration request through <https://ask.mq.edu.au/>

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
<u>Future health - issues and solutions</u>	30%	No	23/08/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
<u>Work ready portfolio</u>	20%	No	20/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
<u>Partnering with industry</u>	50%	No	01/11/2026	Individual and Group	No	Observed

Future health - issues and solutions

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **23/08/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

You will identify a pressing health issue associated with the World Health Organisation threats for future health and determine alignment to relevant Sustainable Development Goals. Content on recent scientific discoveries, innovations, solutions or strategies for managing, treating, or controlling the health issue form part of the assessment. Submission is in the form of a poster where the issue, SDGs, and the up to date information are presented.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Reflect and articulate key knowledge and skills gained throughout the Bachelor of Medical Sciences, and apply learnings to devise strategies for transitioning from university to the workforce
- Analyse and interpret data on a global health issue
- Effectively communicate key information, innovations and issues in the medical sciences in written and verbal form to a variety of stakeholders / audiences

Work ready portfolio

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **20/09/2026**

Weighting: **20%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

You will submit a work ready portfolio in response to a mock job application. This also requires you to relate your work readiness relative to your career aspirations.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Reflect and articulate key knowledge and skills gained throughout the Bachelor of Medical Sciences, and apply learnings to devise strategies for transitioning from university to the workforce

- Consolidate information from seminars, discussions and literature on current topics in medical science and report on your evaluation
- Effectively communicate key information, innovations and issues in the medical sciences in written and verbal form to a variety of stakeholders / audiences

Partnering with industry

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **01/11/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual and Group

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

You will provide a recorded video presentation about their PACE experience. The presentation will include detailing the partner organisation's function and significance for medical/health sciences, work integrated activities performed during PACE placement, deliverables/outcomes provided by the student for the partner, employability skills developed, recognition of how the organisation supports stakeholder needs in the health sector, and future career relevance of the experience. This assessment includes considerable reflection on your experiential learning during the PACE activity and relatedness to learning experiences, skills and knowledge throughout study towards the Bachelor of Medical Sciences and supporting real world stakeholders in the health sector

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Reflect and articulate key knowledge and skills gained throughout the Bachelor of Medical Sciences, and apply learnings to devise strategies for transitioning from university to the workforce
- Consolidate information from seminars, discussions and literature on current topics in medical science and report on your evaluation
- Analyse and interpret data on a global health issue
- Appraise strategies for working effectively both as an individual and as part of a team, with knowledge of ethical principles and professional conduct applicable for your career aspirations
- Effectively communicate key information, innovations and issues in the medical sciences in written and verbal form to a variety of stakeholders / audiences

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this

type of assessment

- [Academic Success](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

Classes begin in week 1

Please check iLearn for Face to Face SGTAs

- Week 1 - Assessment 1
- Weeks 2 and 8 - career planning and Assessment 2
- Week 6 Careers evening (Assessment 2)
- Week 7 (PACE project students)
- TBA Workplace Diversity and Incusion training

Methods of Communication

- We will communicate with you via your university email and through announcements on iLearn.
- Queries to convenors can either be placed on the iLearn discussion board - this is preferable for queries that directly relate to unit content, unit activities, or assessments. Queries can also be sent via email to the unit email BIOL3661@mq.edu.au.
- Unit contacts per theme (please ensure you contact the right staff member for quick assistance)
 - Employability modules / content - should be directed to Michelle Power
 - PACE and Assessments 1 and 3 - should be directed to Michelle Power
- For more serious matters of an individual nature and that do not directly relate to unit content, unit activities, or assessments - please email the unit convenor directly.

Learning and Teaching module

BIOL3661 is delivered in different formats - Face to Face classes, online seminars, self-directed learning, workshops, and placement and project work.

PACE activities

The PACE component of BIOL3661 can be completed in two ways.

1. **Individual internship** – students seek out an internship opportunity and complete required PACE forms for approval.

2. **SGTA group-based activity** – students complete their PACE experience by undertaking activities in partnership with unit designated industry partners. Project deliverables are completed in small groups and a teaching staff will be available in SGTA times (weeks 9-12) for questions and assistance.

CLASSES

Seminars - beginning week 1

BIOL3661 has one online seminar per week where guest speakers relating will cover topics relating to career progression and research themes. Over 80% of the lecturers in this unit are external to Macquarie University and work at other institutes. These scientists, postdocs, students and professionals are giving up their time to present information to you and to assist you with the next stages of your career. Please endeavour to attend seminars and respect the time and contributions that the speakers are providing for you.

Small group teaching activities - beginning week 1

Please refer to Ilearn relative to weeks where Face to Face classes are held.

- In week 1 SGTA (Face to Face) students undertake a task to support completion of assessment 1
- In weeks 2-8: students undertake self-directed learning modules and small group activities to identify and develop key skills that will support their careers after completion of the Bachelor of Medical Sciences.
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Weeks 7, 9-12 PACE Project students

- In week 7 students completing the on-campus PACE activity will form groups in class
- From weeks 9-12 students completing their PACE activity on campus in partnership meet in classrooms and contact teaching teams for assistance (during scheduled SGTA times).

Health in classes

- If you are experiencing any cold or flu symptoms please consider the health of others and avoid attending classes.
- Please also wear a mask should you have cold symptoms to prevent spread of respiratory diseases, and especially during times of heightened cases.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)

- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Changes from Previous Offering

1. Some Face to Face classes have been replaced with Face to Face workshops e.g. Career evening for the entire class.
2. Assessment 2 has been changed from selective writing of learning gained through completion of self-directed learning modules to a portfolio.

Unit information based on version 2026.03 of the [Handbook](#)